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Sen. Allen pleased post-Labor Day school start signed into law

LANSING – Michigan parents, students and tourism-related business owners now have a few extra weeks of summer thanks to legislation signed into law today requiring schools to start classes after Labor Day, announced Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City.

House Bill 4803 as enacted requires the new post-Labor Day school start date. The new starting date will allow parents to take longer trips during the extended weekend without having their children miss school days.

“The enactment of a post-Labor Day school start is great news for both the families and business owners throughout the state,” Allen said. “Starting school after Labor Day on a statewide basis provides more time for students to explore all the historic and environmental wonders our state has to offer.”

Starting school after Labor Day will generate an estimated 2,000 new jobs and between \$100 million and \$200 million in economic activity. The added tourism also will create an estimated \$10 million more in tourism-related tax revenue for the state.

A recent poll found that nearly two-thirds of Michigan voters said they supported having schools open after Labor Day, showing widespread public support for the change.

Under the new law, if a collective bargaining agreement conflicts with the provisions of the law, it would not apply until after the expiration date of the collective-bargaining agreement.

“Schools in northern Michigan have maintained the tradition of starting after Labor Day and continued to excel academically,” Allen said. “This law will allow Michigan families to enjoy the history, arts and culture of our great state, while providing a much needed boost to our economy.”

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Editor’s note: Audio comments from Sen. Allen may be downloaded from the Michigan Senate Republican Majority Multi-Media Link web site at:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/index.htm>